

programmes is to educate the public about various problems relating to ground water like decline in its levels, deterioration in quality and saline water ingress and also need for ground water conservation and protection for future.

Water being a State subject, necessary measures to prevent over-exploitation of ground water resources and proper regulation and control of water development are required to be taken by the State Governments. However, the Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a model bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development. The Central, Ground Water Authority has taken following steps for regulation and control of ground water development:

- (i) eleven (11) areas where level of ground water position has become critical have been declared as Notified Areas. In these areas, new tube-wells cannot be constructed without prior approval of the Authority,
- (ii) Ground water abstraction structures in the Notified Areas, have been registered,
- (iii) Group Housing Societies, Schools/Institutes, Hotels, Industrial Establishments, Farm Houses located in Notified Areas of South and South-West District of NCT Delhi; Municipal Corporation of Faridabad and Ballabgarh, Haryana; Municipal Corporation Ghaziabad, U.P., Gurgaon Town and adjoining industrial areas of Gurgaon district, Haryana have been advised to adopt Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting in their premises.

Border Trade Centres

*595. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Border Trade Centres opened in the North-Eastern Region, State-wise;
- (b) the details of financial involvement in opening the Trade Centres; and
- (c) the details of programmes initiated for development of Border Trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) There are 35 Border Trade Centres

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notified in the North East, out of which 14 are operational. The list of border trade centres is placed at Statement-I (*See* below). So far, a sum of Rs. 23.34 crore, as detailed in Statement-II (*See* below), has been sanctioned from Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme towards opening of trade centres.

Central Government has been taking specific steps to promote trade and commerce in North-Eastern Region and adjoining countries. Under the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme, 21 projects relating to the development of trade related infrastructure and removal of bottlenecks in exports have been approved in the North-Eastern Region and Rs. 41.69 crore has been sanctioned for the purpose up to 31st March, 2002. Four border townships at Zokhawthar (Mizoram), Moreh (Manipur), Dawki (Meghalaya) and Sutarkhandi (Assam) have also been identified for development of trade related infrastructure. Under the Export Development Fund Scheme for North Eastern, 14 projects have been sanctioned with a total sum of Rs. 6.61 crore for assisting trade promotion activities in the North East.

Statement-1

*Notified Land Customs Stations on the international border of the North East
(Department of Revenue notification No. 63/94-Customs (NT) dt. 21.11.94)*

ON INDO BANGLADESH BORDER

ASSAM

Cachar District

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Karimganj Railway Station | |
| 2. | Karimganj Steamerghat | |
| 3. | Karimganj Ferry Station | Functional |
| 4. | Latu Bazar | |
| 5. | Mahisasan Railway Station | |
| 6. | Silchar R.M.S. Office | |
| 7. | Silchar Steamer-ghat | |
| 8. | Sutarkandi | Functional |

Darrang District

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|--|
| 9. | Tezpur Steamer-ghat | |
|----|---------------------|--|

Goalpara District

10. Dhubri Steamerghal
11. Golakganj Railway Station
12. Manikarchar

Kamrup District

13. Guwahati Steamerghat

MEGHALAYA**Garo Hills District**

- | | |
|------------------|------------|
| 14. Baghmara | Functional |
| 15. Dalu | |
| 16. Ghasuapara | Functional |
| 17. Mahendraganj | Functional |

Jaintia Hills District

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| 18. Dawki Steamerghat | Functional |
|-----------------------|------------|

Khasi Hills District

- | | |
|------------------|------------|
| 19. Balat | |
| 20. Bholaganj | Functional |
| 21. Barsora | Functional |
| 22. Ryngku | |
| 23. Sheila Bazar | Functional |

MIZORAM**Lunglei District**

24. Demagiri

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TRIPURA

Tripura North District

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|------------|
| 25. | Dhalaighat | |
| 26. | Raghnabazar | Functional |
| 27. | Manu (Kailasahar) Sub-division | Functional |

Tripura South District

- | | | |
|-----|------------|--|
| 28. | Muhurighat | |
| 29. | Sabroom | |

Tripura West District

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|------------|
| 30. | Agartala | Functional |
| 31. | Khowaighat | Functional |
| 32. | Srimantapur | Functional |

ON INDO-BHUTAN BORDER

ASSAM

- | | | |
|-----|----------|--|
| 33. | Darranga | |
| 34. | Hathisar | |
| 35. | Ultapani | |

ON INDO-MYANMAR BORDER

MIZORAM

Lunglei District

- | | | |
|-----|---------|--|
| 36. | Champai | |
|-----|---------|--|

MANIPUR

Chandel District

- | | | |
|-----|-------|--|
| 37. | Moreh | |
|-----|-------|--|

Statement-II

Details of the amount sanctioned from CDBS towards opening of trade centres

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the Project	Total Cost	CIB Contribution
Trade Centre, Sutarkhandi	8.16	6.53
Trade Centre, Manakchar	4.26	3.4083
Trade Centre, Guwahati	13.40	13.40

Tourism industry in India

*596. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been only 2.24 lakh tourists visiting the country in December, 2001 as compared to 2.83 lakh in the same month last year registering thereby a fall of 21 per cent in the tourist flow;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has the highest taxed tourism business as consumers pay nearly 40 per cent in luxury expenditure and sales tax in comparison to roughly 4 per cent in Thailand;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to make the Indian tourism industry a lucrative one?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN):

(a) The foreign tourist arrival to the country in December, 2001 was 2.54 lakh as compared to 3.13 lakh in December, 2000 thus showing a decline of **18.8** percent.

(b) and (c) The luxury tax on hotels and sales tax are levied by the State Governments. These rates vary from State to State. The luxury tax rates vary from 0 to 20 percent and the sales tax rates from 0 to 23 percent for food, 0 to 23.2 percent for soft drinks, 0 to 59.4 percent for Indian manufactured liquor and 0 to 90 percent for imported liquor.